

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Dental Transmittal No. 39****May 25, 2007**

To: Dentists
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Local Health Departments
Healthy Kids Providers
Managed Care Organizations

From: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

Re: Periodic Oral Evaluation - Dental Services for Children under age 21 in accordance with COMAR 10.09.05 – Dental Regulations and COMAR 10.09.23.06.D – Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Regulations

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify our policies and to inform providers of the dental benefits available to children, under age 21, who are enrolled in the Maryland Medicaid Program or the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP). These children are eligible for dental benefits if they are enrolled in either the Medicaid fee-for-service program or Maryland's managed care program- HealthChoice.

Prevention and early detection of oral health problems are essential to promote and maintain overall health. Therefore, Medicaid encourages families to schedule an initial visit to the dentist within six months of the eruption of the child's first primary tooth and no later than 12 months of age. This visit is a Medicaid covered dental service.

The Maryland Medicaid Program also recommends that a child should see the dentist twice each year beginning at age two. Therefore, dentists may be reimbursed for a periodic oral evaluation every 6 months for any child under age 21. The limitation of one periodic oral examination per 6 month period will be waived if medical necessity can be justified. Routine periodic dental services do not require preauthorization or referral from a physician.

To check a child's eligibility or MCO enrollment, call the Eligibility Verification System at 1-800-710-1447. For providers enrolled in eMedicaid, a new web-based application, Web EVS, is now available at www.emdhealthchoice.org.

We would like you to know that, in addition to routine dental care, the Department requires the assessment of oral health by a physician or nurse practitioner as part of periodic well child care. The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program, or Healthy Kids Program as it is known in Maryland, requires physicians or nurse practitioners to include the following oral screening components as part of the physical examination at each well-child visit:

- Intra-oral exam – tonsils, throat, palate, cheeks, tongue and floor of mouth
- Extra-oral exam – lips, head and neck region
- Dental ridges (including gums for evidence of infection, bleeding or inflammation and erupting teeth)
- Malformation or decay of all teeth
- Need for dietary fluoride supplements
- Early evidence of tooth decay (white spot lesions)
- Signs of orofacial trauma and/or abuse
- Risk factors for oral diseases

Physicians in the Healthy Kids Program are required to advise parents to take their children (2 through 20 years of age) to see a dentist twice yearly, regardless of oral health status. Additionally, as a component of health education and anticipatory guidance, physicians are encouraged to address age appropriate oral health education and counseling topics such as:

- Prevention of Infant and Early Childhood Caries
- Prevention of Periodontal Disease
- Prevention of Oral Cancers
- Prevention of Oral and Facial Injuries

We appreciate the efforts of dentists, public health dental clinics, pediatricians and primary care providers to care for the oral health care needs of low-income children and we ask for your continued participation in providing care for this vulnerable population. If you only participate in the Medicaid fee-for-service program, we ask you to consider contracting to provide services for children enrolled in MCOs.

Dentists wishing to enroll in an MCO, please see attached dental provider enrollment contacts. For additional information or questions regarding the dental fee-for-service program, please call 410-767-5706.

Attachment

MCO Dental Contacts

Amerigroup:	Avis Cobbs, Provider Relations	410-981-4072
Diamond:	Jennell Parker, Medicaid Product Mgr.	410-910-7121
Helix:	Mark Sniegocki, Doral Dental	412-928-3235
JAI:	Adrienne McPherson, Director of Provider Relations	410-433-2200
Maryland Physicians Care:	Brittany Siehr, Doral Dental	800-417-7140 Ext. 3387
Priority Partners:	Elyse Markwitz, Directory, Dental Services	410-424-4613
UnitedHealthcare:	Lydia Parker, Provider Operations	240-683-5249